

REMARKS

Claim 35 is amended. Claims 35-39, 41-48 and 75 are pending in the application.

Claims 35-39, 41-48 and 75 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of Besser, U.S. Patent No. 5,582,881; Marieb, U.S. Patent No. 5,909,635; Colgan, U.S. Patent No. 5,925,933 and Shan, U.S. Patent No. 6,140,228. The Examiner is reminded by direction to MPEP § 2143 that a proper obviousness rejection has the following three requirements: 1) there must be some suggestion or motivation to modify or combine reference teachings; 2) there must be a reasonable expectation of success; and 3) the combined references must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. Claims 35-39, 41-48 and 75 are allowable over Besser, Shan, Colgan and Marieb for at least the reason that the references, individually or as combined, fail to disclose or suggest each and every element in any of those claims.

As amended, independent claim 35 recites photopatterning a first, second and third layer into a conductive line having a contact plug within an opening which extends through an insulating layer, the contact plug being in electrical connection with a diffusion region of a substrate. Claim 35 further recites the first layer comprising at least one of elemental aluminum or an aluminum alloy, the second layer comprising an alloy of titanium and aluminum from the first layer, and the third layer comprising titanium nitride. The amendment to claim 35 is supported by the specification at, for example, page 5, lines 18-22; Fig. 2; page 10, lines 6-10 and Fig. 7. Not one of the cited references, or any combination thereof, disclose or suggest the recited method comprising photopatterning a layer of aluminum or aluminum alloy, a layer of an alloy of titanium and aluminum, and a titanium nitride layer to form the recited conductive line having a contact plug within an

opening which extends through an insulating layer, the contact plug being in electrical connection with a diffusion region of a substrate. Accordingly, independent claim 35 is not rendered obvious by the cited combination of Besser, Shan, Colgan and Marieb and is allowable over these references.

Dependent claims 36-39, 41-48 and 75 are allowable over the cited combination of Besser, Shan, Colgan and Marieb for at least the reason that they depend from allowable base claim 35.

For the reasons discussed above, pending claims 35-39, 41-48 and 75 are allowable. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests formal allowance of such pending claims in the Examiner's next action.

Respectfully submitted,

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